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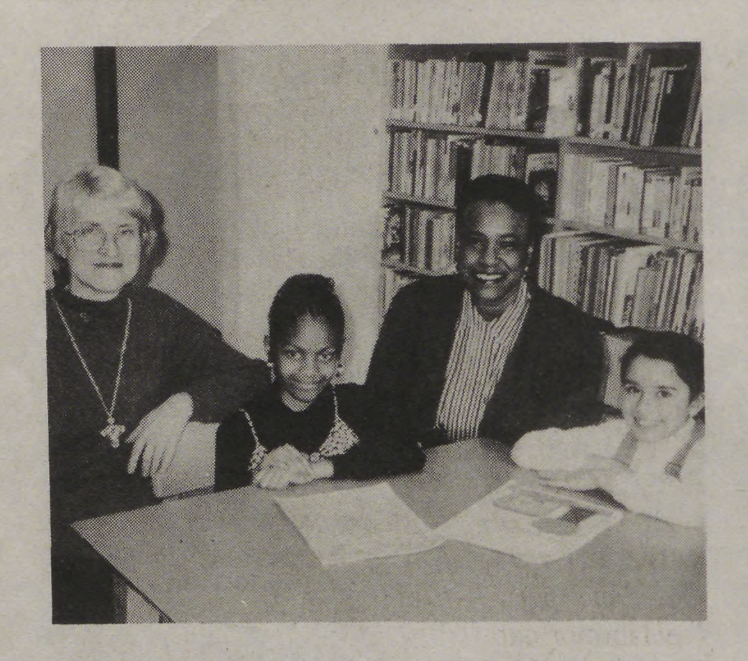
IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 20 No. 1 Spring 1997



Immigrant Groups Rally At Federal Building

(see article on page 7)



Children's Create-A-Book Winners

As part of its "Children's Book Week" celebration, the Newark Public Library invited children to create a book and enter it in a contest. First place in the Pre-K to 3rd grade category was won by Susana Veira, for her story "The Real Talking House." Susana is in 3rd grade at Wilson Ave. School. First place in the 4 to 8th grade category was won by Janice Delaney, for her story "Gisela's Rare Necklace. Janice is in fourth grade at Oliver St. School. Shown in the photograph (from left to right) are Susan Blake, the librarian from the Children's Room at Van Buren St. Library, Janice Delany, Carol T. Jenkins, a graphic artist who served as the contest judge, and Susana C. Vieira.

High Scoring Trio

What do the three young women in this photograph have in common? They love basketball, and they play it well. As members of the East Side Lady Red Raiders, the three were high scorers, combining for a total of 619 points (out of a total of 789). Vanessa Freitas (left) is described by one of her coaches as a "natural athlete, and the team's best defensive player". Christina Morales (center), "epitimizes the desire to be a basketball player". And Sueli Vieira (right), is "the energy of the team". All three girls are freshmen. Sergio Rodriguez, assistant coach, is understandably proud of the three young athletes, and hopes they will "grow as people and as players." Coach Rodriguez will be heading a summer league for girls this year based at East Side and Nutley High Schools.



Ironbound Community Corporation Phone #'s

Preschool Day Care	**589-6873**
After-School Program	**465-0947**
Summer Arts Youth Prog.	**" "**
Adult Education/ESL/	**" "**
Essex County College	**" "**
Environmental Program	**589-3533**
Community Organizing	**" "**
Ironbound Voices/Insights	**" "**
Family Services	**344-7208**
(Counseling, Information)	**" "**
Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies	**" "**
Senior Citizen Services:	**" "**
Meals-on-Wheels	**" "**
Home Friends	**" "**
Senior Ride (Medical Transp)	**" "**

A Victory For Ironbound

Residents of Ironbound have said for many years that this community has more than its share of toxic waste facilities, and that this area has become the "dumping ground" for the whole area. Now officials at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have agreed. They quote a 1994 Executive Order which calls for "environmental justice", and says that communities which are poor, or composed of minorities, or non-English speaking citizens, are not supposed to receive an unfair share of toxic waste facilities.

"Environmental justice" is a big part of the reason that the state of New Jersey Department of Envrionmental Protection (DEP) denied a permit for Wheelabrator Inc. to process sludge on Ave. A. in Ironbound. Wheelabrator wanted to bring 20,000 tons of sludge from the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission to be processed on Ave. A, near South St. School and residential homes.

The **Ironbound Commitee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW)** has been fighting the sludge plant for a number of years. "So many people were involved with this victory," said June Kruszewski form the ICATW. "I can't tell you how many meetings we went to at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission. We marched. We wrote letters. We signed petitions. We never gave up."

ICATW pushed the City of Newark to pass a resolution against the sludge plant on Ave. A., which they did in May 1996.

During January, ICATW representatives met with Melva Hayden, from the Environmental Protection Agency, arguing that putting the sludge facility in Ironbound would be "environmental **injustice.**"

All the meetings and hard work paid off during February 1997, when the Department of Environmental Protection denied the permit to Wheelabrator.

In their letter to Wheelabrator, Dennis Hart from the DEP, states theat the permit is being denied because of "environmental injustice...(that) reflects a callous disregard for the quality of life for the City of Newark's residents."

The DEP quotes a letter written by the EPA which says that Ironbound appears to meet the factors which the Region is "currently using to identify environmental justice communities,e.g. a large percentage of minority population, or a low income population, and a disproportionate burden or share of environmental problems."

"It's a victory for us in that we are not getting a new processing plant in the community which has a history of being a dumping site," said Tiwana Steward-Griffin, from the ICATW.

The permit denial is for only one year. Wheelabrator can reapply.

Grant Conselyea, an Ironbound resident who lives near the proposed facility, said, "Part of the fight is over, but the whole fight is not over. We have to be on our guard. We have to watch out for ourselves, because nobody is watching out for us. Everyone should work together."

College Courses In Your Community

Summer Session II: Essex County College
& Ironbound Community Corporation
July 7 - Aug. 14, 1997

Registration: May 1 to July 12, 1997
432 Lafayette St, Newark
(after 6:30 PM)

Classes this semester include: Business Management, Real Estate, English as a Second Language, Sociology and Psychology.
For information contact Isabel Pascual, Program Director at 465-0947 after 6 PM.

Students Tour Water Supply Source



Students from the Ironbound After- School Program touring Newark's drinking water plant in West Milford.

by Andrew Hodgson

When we think about how vital water is in our lives, it is ironic that we are so willing to take it for granted. In the life of the average Newark resident, or for that matter, the average United States citizen, fresh, unpolluted water is never difficult to aquire thanks to the modern conveniences of water treatment.

On Friday, April 4, the children of the **Ironbound After-School Program** travelled to Newark's drinking water plant in West Milford to learn about and appreciate our water supply. The first stop on the tour was the water filtering station. 50 million gallons of water are cleaned and purified in this facility every day. Water is rushed into filter chambers where it is forced through large filters and purified of dust and debris. Every few hours, these filters get clogged with debris and must be cleaned. Daniel Pino, a student of the ICC After-School Program was allowed to press the button which redirected thousands of gallons of water into a clean filter chamber.

The watershed land management office was the last stop. The children learned that a watershed is the area of land where water is collected. The Pequanic Watershed is an area of 35,000 acres and supplies Newark with a majority of its water. It is important that a watershed is kept free from illegal dumping and pollution, and that makes taking care of this large area a difficult task.

This trip was arranged by Jennifer Samnick and Andrew Hodgson of **New Jesrey Community Water Watch**, and it served as a supplement to the environmental curriculum which students in the After-School Program have been studying since October. Everyone enjoyed the early spring day, as well as receiving a new perspective and new appreciation for our water supply.



Welcome New ICC Staff

Among the new faces who have joined the Ironbound Community Corporation staff in the last few months two staff persons for the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Program. On the left, Jaqueline Rosario and on the right, Jaqueline Rodriguez.

Ironbound Votes No

Ironbound residents voted "no" on a proposal to issue bonds to construct 2 stadiums in Riverbank Park in a special referendum held March 11, 1997. 60% of Ironbound residents voted against the proposal, although citywide the voters approved the bonds.

"The people of the community which will be most affected by this proposal do not want it here," said David Schnegelberger, a member of Save Riverbank Park Coalition (SPARK).

The resounding no vote happened in spite of thousands of dollars spent by those who have been pushing for the stadiums, a ballot which was called "gibberish" by a Judge and led to confusion, and some officials saying that the vote was "meaningless," because the stadiums would be financed another way.

"Now is the time to look for another location for this project," said Irene DeOliveira. "Ironbound residents have said all along - don't build the stadiums in the park. Our politicial leaders should listen to the voters in this area."

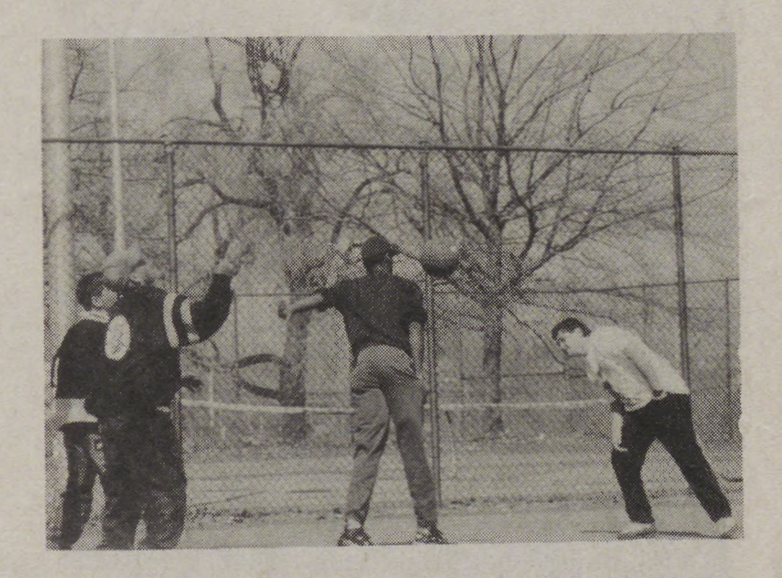
The referendum came as part of a fight which has gone on over a year, and which has involved thousands of Newark residents. People spoke at City Council and Freeholder meetings, marched in front of City Hall, jammed the one meeting that was held in Ironbound, and organized an effective petition drive that collected over 4000 signatures.

The project was supposed to break ground in September 1996, in order to complete a minor league baseball stadium for a team being organized by Rick Cerone to play in the spring of 1998.

Riverbank Park Is Historic

In a related development, on April 1, 1997, the Newark Preservation and Historic Landmark Commission voted to recommend Riverbank Park as a historic site.

In order to be designated the Park had to meet at least one of the following criteria:



a) **It must be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.** Riverbank Park was built on land which was originally the Edward Balbach and Sons Newark Smelting and Refining Works, one of the city's major industries, as well as the Morris Canal. By the end of the nineteenth century, the river and canal were replaced by rail, as a way to transport goods, and industries were relocated. Franklin Murphy, a governor of New Jersey and founder of the Newark YMCA, and the Essex County Parks Commission, wrote in 1910, "although it is the smallest of the twelve parks, even in its unfinished state, one of the most largely used, and is an excellent example of the wisdom and importance of locating breathing spaces in thickly settled portions of the community."

b & c) **It must be connected to the lives of people in the past and/or the work of a master.** Riverbank Park was designed by the Olmstead Brothers, who designed Central Park in New York. The park changed the type of design the firm did, because it includes both "natural" sections (trees, shrubs, etc) and recreational sections for people to use for tennis, baseball, etc.

d) **It must be likely to yield information important to history.** Riverbank Park is built over

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Riverbank Park

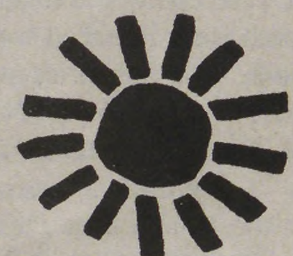
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the Morris Canal, which is already designated a historic District. The Army Corps of Engineers in a report done recently, said there is a high potential for the area to be an "archeological site of significance."

The recommendation of the Historic Commission now goes to the City Planning Board and the City Council. If the City does not wish it to be listed as a historic site, they must present information showing why it does **not** meet the criteria.

Green Acres & National Park Service

Riverbank Park was also a recipient of Green Acres (state) funds and National Park Service (federal) funds for improvments. Because taxpayers have put money into these parks, they cannot be eliminated or changed without approval of the state and federal agencies. Approvals have not been given at this time.





Ironbound children demonstrate for a pool during one of the ten years the community has waited for the new pool to be built.

Ironbound Pool: Is The Waiting Over?

A groundbreaking was finally held for the Ironbound Aquatic Center, the Ironbound swimming pool to be built at Rome and St. Charles St.

A resolution which passed at the March 5, 1997 City Council meeting authorized a contracat with Prismatic Development Corporation, based in Fairfield, New Jersey. Engineering Director Howard Lazarus said pre-construction meetings are taking place.

According to a press release sent out by the City of Newark's Public Information Office, the new pool, called the Ironbound Aquatic Center, will be an indoor, above ground pool, that will meet standard national requirements for swimming competitions. There will be a wading pool to accommodate younger children, and a sun deck. The plans call for a "movable bottom" that will enable the depth of the water to be varied for swimming instruction, and also complies with the American Disabilities Act. The pool will be connected to the rest of the recreation site on Rome St., and will include a multi-purpose room.

Ironbound residents have been waiting for the pool to be built for almost 10 years. Construction was stopped because of toxic chemicals in the ground where the pool is located.

What To Do About Changes in the Immigration Laws?

On March 22nd about 50 people attended a workshop on the **Changes in Immigration Policy** which was sponsored by the Ironbound Community Center. People had the opportunity to have their questions answered, by Denis Johnston from American Friends Service Committee, and the overall conclusion was that immigrants can not let all these changes go by without doing something about it." Although there is a lot of fear, people need to express their discontent and anger by organizing in the community," said Flor Bermudez from ICC's Family Services Program.

Many people did exactly that by joining a demonstration which took place April 1 in Newark. The protestors denounced the new immigration laws as being inhumane and unfair. Community members, students, workers and their families gathered in front of the Federal Building and rallied to defend immigrant rights.

Some of the changes which will have terrible consequences on immigrants lives are:

* People feeling persecution in their home countries who arrive at a United States airport without proper entry documention may be denied entry to the U.S. and returned to their persecutors immediately.

* People facing deportation will lose many of their rights of appeal.

* It will become more difficult for low and moderate income U.S. citizens and legal residents to sponsor their close family members to immigrate to the U.S.

* People who remain in the U.S. without proper immigration documents for more than 180 or 365 days after today will potentially be subject to 3 and 10 year penalties, respectively, which will prohibit them from legalizing their status even if they are sponsored by a U.S. citizen relative.

* State, county, and local social service workers will be required to report to Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) people they know of being undocumented immigrants.

* In the coming months, as many as 25,000 disabled and elderly permanent residents in New Jersey may lose public benefits they depend on to meet their basic needs. Even elderly immigrants who have lived here many years and paid taxes may be cut off.



At Ironbound Community Corporation's Family Services Program on Immigration, Rosa Conceição, Flor Bermudez, Fred Linhares, and community members who attended the meeting.

* Permanent residents who are experiencing temporary economic hardship will be unable to obtain Food Stamps or other asistance even though their taxes help fund these same programs.

Organizing and mobilizing both imigrants and non immigrants around these very important issues is a great task but it is very necessary in order to stop attacks on immigrants. "Organizing is the only way in which we will be able to affect the course of laws such as these which threaten to intimidate communities, divide families, and most important of all disrespect human beings dignity," said Ms. Bermudez. "What is going to come next if we don't act together now and say enough is enough?"

For more information, call the Ironbound Community Corporaiton's Family Services Program at 344-7208.

The Week Of The Young Child

Ironbound Childrens' Center celebrated the Week of the Young Child during April. The celebration at the Childrens Center included special times for parents, a parade through the neighborhood, international day, and Teacher Appreciation Day. Shown below are many of the Childrens' Center dedicated teachers:



From left to right, Sylvia Cardia, Rosa Texeira, and Donna O'Shea Jones.



Sandra Coco, Tiwanda Green, Theresa Wolski, Maria Leite, Pat Morèira, and (seated) Carrie Collins.



Trina Paulus, author of Hope for the Flowers, was the speaker at the Ecumenical Environmental Service held at St. Stephan's Church.

Ecumenical Service Celebrates Hope

On April 6, 1997, many Ironbound residents and friends from other communities joined in an ecumenical worship service about the environment, and our role in it, held at St. Stephan's United Church of Christ.

The guest speaker for the service was Trina Paulus, a Montclair resident who has been active for many years, working for a better environment. Ms. Paulus has been involved with the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, most recently in their fight against putting a sludge plant on Avenue A in Ironbound (see article on p.3). She is the author of "Hope for the Flowers" which has been translated into many languages and published around the world.

The collection donated during the service was given to the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste to continue its work.

Clergy from many Ironbound churches of different donominations took part in the beautiful service.

Questions About A SID Proposal: What Does It Mean For You?

A proposal to implement a Special Investment District (SID) in the Ironbound section of Newark is being circulated by a group calling itself "Concerned Citizens", according to the Luso American newspaper.

The SID would be paid for by an additional tax assessment of 5% to commercial properties in the Ironbound, and would generate $1,500,000. 20 to 23% of that amount would be used for administrative costs (up to $345,000), and the rest to hire extra security, and do planning, beautification, and development in the Ironbound business area. The SID (also called BID or Business Improvement District) legislation also allows license and fees to be imposed on businesses and residents. Residents can also be taxed an additional amount on their properties.

A SID can be set up by City Council ordinance, with approval from the Mayor. A SID will be run by a Board, who will hire a director. Some apointees to the SID will be made by the Mayor and City Council. Those appointed can include business owners, operators and residents of the Ironbound.

According to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, which initiated the SID Program, there are more than 30 SIDS (or BIDS) currently operating in New Jersey. The average annual assessment collected for each of these SIDS is about $160,000, and their average budget, including other pbulic and private funds, is approximately $350,000. The assessment in the Ironbound would yield much more: $1,500,000 based on current property values.

Ironbound residents have raised a number of questions about the SID, including:

* What effect will a SID have on the competitiveness of Ironbound businesses?

* Does the SID mean that you are paying twice for the same services? For example, why pay for extra security, when you already pay taxes for police?

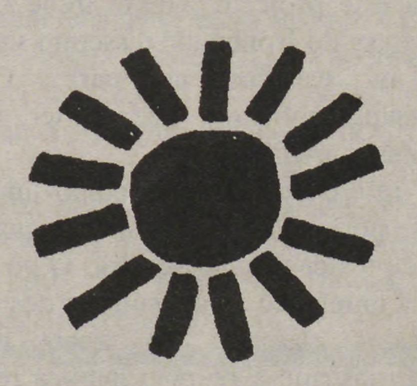
* Why is the proposed budget for the Ironbound SID nearly ten times higher than other SIDS in the state?

* Why does the SID apply to all of Ironbound, rather than business districts?

* What effect will both revaluation and SID have on the amount of tax assessment?

Residents who would like to receive information about Special Investment Districts (SIDs) can contact Seth Grossman of the Department of Community Affairs in Trenton at (609) 633-6280, (609) 633-6280 fax, to receive a brochure or ask questions.

Information for this article taken from the Luso American, and the SID brochure published by the N.J. Department of Community Affairs.



Cable Show For Tenants

"Housing Is A Human Right"

premeires April 30, 1997
Cablevision Channel 26
Wednesdays, 8 PM

First show: HUD Tenants Coalition: Past, Present & Future
Second show: Tenants Tell Their Own Stories

O Ironbound Vota: Não!

Os residentes do Ironbound votaram "não" numa proposta de emissão de obrigaçóes para construir 2 estadios no Parque do Riverbank num referendo especial realizado em 11 de Março, 1997. 60% dos residentes do Ironbound votaram contra a proposta, apesar do voto total da cidade aprovar a emissão das obrigaçóes.

"O povo da comunidade que será o mais atingido por esta proposta não quere que tal aconteça aqui," disse David Schnegelberger da **Save Riverbank Park Coalition (SPARK).**

O sólido voto "não" aconteceu apesar dos milhares de dollars gastos por aqueles que queriam os estadios, um voto que um Juiz chamou "sem nexo" e propenso a confusão, e que os autarcas disseram "não ter significado."

"Agora chegou a hora de procurar outro local para este projecto," disse Irene DeOliveira. "Os residentes do Ironbound disseram sempre - não ponham os estádios no park. Os nossos representantes politicos deviam ter ouvido os eleitores desta area."

O referendo apareceu como uma parte da luta que se porlongou por um ano, a qual envolveu milhares de residentes de Newark. O povo falou na assembleia municipal e nas reunióes dos vereadores do condado, marchou em frente da camara municipal, obstruiu a reunião publica realizada no Ironbound, e organizou a promoção efectiva duma petição que colheu mais de 4000 assinaturas.

O projecto estava programado para arrancar em Setembro de 1996, com o fim de completar um estadio de basebol da liga menor para ser utilizado por uma equipa organizada por Rick Cerone na primavera de 1998.

O Parque de Riverbank É Historico

Num acontecimento relacionado, em 1 de Abril de 1997, a Comissão de Preservação dos Monumentos HIstoricos de Newark votou para recomendar o Parque de Riverbank como um sitio historico.

Para ser assim designado o parque teve de satisfazer pelo menos um dos criterios seguintes:

a) Tem de estar ligado a acontecimentos que tiveram uma contribuição significante nos cursos gerais da historia. O Parque do Riverbank foi construido num terreno que foi originalmetne uma fabrica a Edward Balbach & Sons Newark Smelting & Refining Works, uma das maiores industrias da cidade, bem como o Canal Morris. No fim do seculo dezanove, o río e canal foram sobstituidos pelo caminho de ferro e as industrias foram mudadas de local. Franklin Murphy, um governador de New Jersey e fundador de Newark YMCA e um membro fundador da Comissão dos Parques do Condado Essex, escreveu em 1910, "Apesar de ser o mais pequeno dos 12 parques, mesmo no seu estado de acabamento incompleto, é um dos mais largamente usados, e é um exemplo da sabedoria e importancia de localizar zonas de lazer nas areas densamente povoadas da comunidade."

b & c) Deve estar ligado às vidas do povo no passado e/ou ao trabalho dum mestre. O Parque do Riverbank foi planeado pelos irmãos Olmstead, que criaram o Central Park em New York. O parque excedeu o plano executado pela firma que o criou incluindo areas naturais (arvores, e arbostos, etc.) e areas de recreio para uso das pessoas.

d) Tem que ter o potencial de ceder informação historica relevante. O Parque do Riverbank está construido no leito do Morris Canal, o qual é já designado um distrito historico. O Corpo de Engeneiros do Exercito, num relatorio recente, disse existir um potencial elevado para que a area seja considerada, "um sitio arqueologico significante.

A recomendação segue agora para Comissão de planeamento da cidade e o Conselho Municipal. Se a cidade não concordar na nomeação deste sitio como histórico terá de justificar porque razão os criterios não foram satisfeitos.

Zonas Verdes (Green Acres)

O Parque do Riverbank foi tambem o recipiento dos fundos das zonas verdes (estado) e dos Serviços dos parques Nacionais (federal) para

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Uma Vitoria Para O Ironbound

Ja por muitos anos os residentes desta comunidade tem convivido com mais do que simplesmente depositos de produtos toxicos. Esta comunidade se tornou uma armazenadora de tais produtos não somente para ela propia mas para toda esta area. Agora, as autoridades do Departamento de Proteção do Meio Ambiente (EPA) reconheceram esta fato. Mencionaram uma ordem executiva de 1994 a qual apelava para "Justiça ao Meio Ambiente," e disseram que as comunidades pobres, ou composta de minorias etnicas ou que não falam Inglês, não justifica terem que viverem debaixo detanta poluição.

"Justiciça ao Meio Ambiente" contribuiu em grande parte pela rejeição do Estado de Nova Jersey em fornecer licença para a compania Wheelabrator Inc. a qual planejava construir uma grande planta de procesamento de produtos toxicos na Av. A no Ironbound. Esta compania tinha planos de processarem pelo menos 20 toneladas destes produtos por dia. Ficaria localizada numa zona residencial, e proximo de escolas.

O **Comite do Ironbound Contra Desperdicios Toxicos (ICATW)** tem ja por muitos anos, lutado contra tais planos. Sempre desejaram terem um Ironbound livre de tais poluentes. 'Muitas pessoas estão envolvidades nestes empenhos," disse June Kruszewski, pertencente a esta organização. "E impossivel dizer em quantas reuniões e marchas participamos junto a Comissão do Passaic. Marchamos. Fizemos petições. Escrevemos cartas. Nunca desistimos."

ICATW forçou a cidade de Newark passar uma resolução contra os planos de instalação da planta de processamento na Ave. A em 1996.

Durante e mes de Janeiro, representantes do ICATW se reuniram com Melva Hayden, da Agencia de Proteção do Meio Ambiente, e argumentaram que a implantação da planta no Ironbound, seria uma "injustiça ao maio ambiente."

Tais reuniões juntamente com trablaho arduo, tiveram seus frutos positivos. Em Fevereiro de 1997, o DEP negou conceder licença a Wheelabrator.

Em carta enviada a tal compania, Dennis Hart do DEP, escreveu que a conceção de tal licença seria uma "Injustiça ao Maio Ambiente...Seria **falta de consideração** a todos os residentes da cidade de Newark." O DEP mencionou uma carta escrita pela EPA a qual diz que a comunidade do Ironbound satisfaz os fatos requeridos para aquela classificação. "A Região esta classificada naquela posição pelo fato de ter uma larga porcentagem composta de minorias e de pouca renda, e ja compartilha com um alto indice de poluentes e problemas ambientais."

E uma vitoria para todos nos, ao ser negada licença para instalação desta planta de processamento em nossa comunidade, a qual ja possui recorde em armazenamento de poluentes," disse Tiwana Steward-Griffin do ICATW.

O Indeferimento desta licença é valida para somente 1 ano. Wheelabrator podera solicitar novamente.

Grant Conselyea, residente do Ironbound e cuja casa fica perto da localidade onde seria construido tal empreendimento, disse, "Parte da luta foi ganha. Temos que ficar sempre alertas. Temos que olhar por nos mesmos e nossos vizinhos. Ninguém esta a vigiar para nos."

Riverbank Park cont. de p. 10

melhoramentos. Porque o dinheiro dos contribuintes foi usado estes parques, não podem ser eliminados ou mudados sem a aprovação do estado e das agencias federais. Até agora este peojecto não foi aprovado.



O Que Fazer Sobre as Ultimas Alterações Nas Leis de Imigração

No dia 22 de Março cerca de 50 pessoas assistiram a uma sessão informativa sobre "Mudança nas Leis de Imigraoção" que se realizou no Ironbound Community Center. Desta maneira, os assistentes tiveram oportunidade de obter resposta para algumas das suas perguntas ou dúvidas e, a conclusão final, foi que, nós os emigrantes, não devemos cruzar os braços e fazer nada enquanto estas mudanças entram em vigor. Ainda que exista muito medo, a classe imigrante deve expressar o seu descontentamento e frustração e organizar-se nas suas comunidades. Uma boa maneira de começar foi a demonstração realizada no dia 1 de Abril, quando um grupo de demonstrantes acusou estas leis de serem desumanas e injustas. Membros da comunidade, estudantes, operários e suas famílias juntaram-se em frente do Federal Building em defesa dos seus direitos de emigrante.

As mudanças mais radicais que terão severas consequências nas vidas dos emigrantes são as seguintes:

* Pessoas que, sofrendo perseguição nos seus países, chegam a um aeroporto dos Estados Unidos sem os documentos necessários, podendo ser-lhes negada entrada e entregues imediatamente aos seus perseguidores;

* Pessoas enfrentando deportação perderão muitos dos seus direitos de apelo;

* Tornar-se-á mais difícil para cidadãos americanos com baixos rendimentos económicos chamarem familiares seus para este país;

* Pessoas que se mantiverem neste pais sem documentos durante mais de 180 ou 365 dias, depois de 1 de Abril, poderão sofrer penalidades de 3 a 10 anos, respectivamente, caso se pretendam legalizar, mesmo que tal legalização seja feita através duma pessoa de sua familia, cidadã dos Estados Unidos;

* Funcionários dos serviços sociais do estado, condado ou locais comunicarão aos Serviços de Imigração e Natrualização (INS) os nomes daquelas pessoas que descurbram ser imigrantes sem documentos;

* Nos meses que se vão seguir, cerca de 25 mil pessoas idosas ou impossibilitadas e residentes permanentes de New Jersey, poderão vir a perder os seus benefícios de assistência social, sua fonte única de sobrevivência. Mesmo emigrantes idosos, que já aqui vivem há muitos anos e têm pago os seus impostos, poderão vir a ser cortados.

* Residentes permanentes que venham a sofrer dificuldades económicas de sobrevivência não poderão receber cupões de comida (Food Stamps) ou outro tipo de ajuda, muito embora financiem - ou tenham financiado - estes programas sociais através dos impostos que pagam ou que pagaram.

Organizando e mobilizando tanto imigrantes com não-imigrantes em redor destas importantes questões é uma tarefa muito difícil, mas que é necessária para que os constantes ataques à classe emigrantes acabem. Organizados será a única maneira de combater o curso destas leis que tendem a intimidar inteiras comunidades, dividem famílias completas e, acima de tudo mais, demonstram completo abandono pela dignidade humana. O que acontecerá a seguir se não nos unirmos e actuar agora dizendo: basta!

Se tiver qualquer pergunta ou quiser mais informação telefone para "Family Services Program": 344-7208.

¿Que Podemos Hacer a Cerca de las Nuevas Leyes de Inmigración?

El pasado 22 de marzo cerca de 50 personas asistieron al taller sobre La Nueva Política de Inmigración que se llevó a cabo en el Centro Comunitario de Ironbound. El público tuvo la oportunidad de hacer preguntas y la conclusión general fue que nosotros los inmigrantes, no podemos dejar pasar este tipo de cambios sin hacer nada al respecto. Aún cuando existe mucho temor, debemos expresar nuestro desacuerdo y enojo y organizando nuestras comunidades. Una muy buena oportunidad para empezar fue la Manifestación que se llevó a cabo de 1 de Abril donde participantes denunciaron que estas leyes son inhumanes y injustas. Miembros de la comunidad, estudiantes, trabajadores y sus familias se juntaron enfrente del Edificio Federal en protesta para defender los derechos de los inmigrantes. Los mas drásticos cambios que tendrán terribles consecuencias en las vidas de los immigrantes son:

* La entrada a los Estados Unidos podrá ser negada a personas que lleguen a los aeropuertos sin documentos apropiados y estén huyendo por razones de persecución en sus países de origen y serán regresados.

* Las personas que enfrentan deportación perderán muchos de los derechos de apelación.

* Será mucho más dificl paraa ciudadaños y residentes legales de bajos ingresos para patrocinar a su familia cercana para ingresar a EUA.

* Personas que permanezcan en EUA por mnas de 180 y 365 días sin documentación adecuada despúes de abril 1 serán potencialmente sujetos a penalidades de 3 y 10 años respectivamente, que les prohibirán legalizar su estatus aun cuando hayan sido patrocinados por un familiar cercano que sea ciudadaño.

* Se requerirá que trabajadores de servicios sociales a nivel local, de condado y estatal reporten a Inmigración (INS) gente que ellos sepan que sean inmigrantes indocumentados.

* En los próximos meses cerca de 25,000 residentes permanentes de NJ que son de edad avanzada o incapacitados podrán perder beneficios públicos de los cuales dependen para satisfacer sus necesidades básicas. Estos beneficios serán quitados aun a inmigrantes de edad avanzada que han vivido en este país y pagado impuestos por muchos años.

* Residentes permanentes que tengan crisis económicas no podrán recibir estampillas de comida y otros tipos de asistencia publica aun cuando sus impuestos contribuyen a estos programas.

* Cualquier crimen cuya sentencia haya sido mas de un año puede ser razón suficiente para que Inmigración (INS) comience un proceso de deportación en contra de los residentes permanentes aunque hayan vivido muchos años en los Estados Unidos.

Organizar y movilizar a ambos inmigrantes y no inmigrantes alrededor de estos asuntos tan importantes es una gran responsabilidad pero es muy necesario para poder poner un alto a este tipo de ataques en contra de los inmigrantes en EUA.

Organizados es la única manera en que podemos cambiar el curso de estas leyes que amenazan con intimidar comunidades, dividir familias y lo mas importante que no respetar la dignidad humana. ¿Que es lo que va a pasar si no actuamos juntos ahora y decimos: BASTA?

Para mayor información o si tiene pregunta por favor llame al centro de Servicios Familiares 344-7208.

El Ironbound Voto No

En un referendum extraordinario realizado el pasado 11 de marzo, los vecinos del Ironbound rechazaron una propuesta para la emisión de bonos destinados a la construcción de dos estadios deportivos en lo que ahora es el parque Riverbank. El 60% de las voces de éste barrio fueron de oposición al proyecto. Sin embargo, la propuesta fue aprobada por una escasa mayoria de los votos en toda la ciudad.

"La ciudad que se verá más afectada por este proyecto no queremos que se construya aqui," dijo David Schnegelberger, vocero de SPARK (Save Riverbank Park Coalition), movimento opositor al proyecto.

El rechazo rotundo se produjo a pesar de una campaña a favor del proyecto patrocinado por algunos personas a un costo de miles de dolares, un boleto calificado por un juez y por muchos electores de "incomprensible", las declaraciones de algunos oficiales de que el referendum carecía de significado.

"Este es el momento de buscar otro sitio para el proyecto," afirmó Irene DeOliveira. "Los vecinos del Ironbound decimos desde el principio que no ubiquen los estadios en el parque. Nuestros lideres politicos deberian de hacernos caso."

El referendum se dió en el marco de una lucha librada por mas de un año, y en la cual miles de residentes de Newark se han manifestado, prestando testimonio ante en Consejo Municipal y la Junta (Board of Freeholders) del condado y en las únicas audiencias públicas celebradas en el própio barrio, ademas realizar de concentraciones y marchas, y una campaña de peticiónes que reunió 4,000 firmas.

En la propuesta se contemplaba el comienzo de las obras en Septiembre de 1996, con el objectivo de construir un estadio de beisbol de ligas menores para un equipo que el Sr. Rick Cerone, ex jugador de grandes ligas pretende organizar desde la temporada beisbolistica de 1998.

En otras noticias, el 1 de abril, la Comisión Sobre Preservación y Sitios Historicos de la ciudad recomendó que el parque Riverbank sea denominada y preservada como sitio historico.

Existen varios criterios para la calificación de "sitio historico". Cada sitio debe poseer por lo menos uno de estos caracteristicos:

1) Relación con eventos de importancia en el marco de la historia general del area. El parque Riverbank fue construido en terrenos que anantes pertencieron ala compañia siderurgica Edward Balbach e Hijos, una de las industrias más importantes de Newark, y tambien al Canal Morris. A finales del siglo pasado el transporte por ríos y canales fue mayormente sustituido por los ferrocarriles, y muchas industrias se reubicaron, abirendo espacio para el parque. En 1918, Franklin Murphy, quien fuera gobernador de Nueva Jersey, fundador del YMCA de Newark y tambien de la Comisión de Parques del condado de Essex, escribió: "a pasar de ser el menor de los doce parques del condado, y antes de haberse terminada su construcción, (el parque Riverbank) es de los mas utilizados, y brinda un ejemplo excelente de la importancia de ubicar espacios abiertos en las zonas más pobladas de la comunidad."

2 & 3) Relevancia a la vida del pueblo del pasado y/o obra de un gran maestro. El parque fue obra de los hermanos Olmstead, arquitectos del Parque Central de New York. Con este parque los hermanos crearon por primera vez un parque que cominara areas "naturales' y areas de recreo.

4) Fuertes posibilidades de proveer importantes datos historicos. El parque fue construido sobre el antiguo Canal Morris, ya denominado distrito historico. El Cuerpo de Ingeneiros del Ejercito ya realizó una evaluación en la que considera probable que el area sea "un sítio arqueologico de cierta importancia.'

La recomendación sera presentada a la Junta Municipal de Planifcación y luego al Consejo

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Una Victoria Para El Ironbound

Los residentes del Ironbound han dicho por lmuchos años que esta comunidad tiene mas de lo necesario encuanto a facilidades tóxicas las cuales hacen que esta comunidad sea una zona de desperdicios. Ahora oficiales de los Estados Unidos Agencia de Protección del Ambiente (EPA) estan de acuerdo. Ellos dicen que una orden ejecutiva en el 1994 exijia "justicia ambiental" y decia que comunidades pobres, compuestas de minoria, o con residentes que no hablan ingles, no estan supuestas a recebir una cantidad injusta de tóxicos y facilidades para esto.

"Justicia ambiental" fue una de los razones primordial que el Departamento de Protección Ambiental de New Jersey le negó el permiso a Wheelabrator Inc. para construir una planta que desecharia tóxicos la cual seria construida en el Avenida A en el Ironbound. Wheelabrator queria procesar 20,000 toneladas de desperdicios en la planta que seria construida al lado de la escuela South St. y sus residentes.

El **Comite del Ironbound en contra de Desperdicios Tóxicos (ICATW)** a estado peleando por muchos años encontra esta construcción. "Tantas personas han estado envueltas en esta victoria," dijo June Kruszewski del ICATW. "No puedo decirles cuantas reuniones hubieron en Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission. Nosotros marchamos. Nosotros hicimos cartas. Firmamos peticiones. Nunco nos dimos por vencidos."

ICATW empujo a la ciudad de Newark para que pasara una resolucción en contra la planta de desperdicios a la Avenida A, la cual fue aprobada en Mayo 1996.

Durante enero, ICATW y sus representantes se dieron cita con Melva Hayden de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA) para un argumento que facilito que se pasara la ley de "injusticia ambiental."

Las reuniones y el trabajo duro pago en Febrero del 1997, cuando del Departamento Ambiental le negó el permiso a Wheelabrator.

En la carta enviada por Dennis Hart del DEP a Wheelabrator indicaba que el permiso fue negado basado en "injusticia ambiental...eso refleja una renegación a la calidad de vivienda de los residentes de Newark." El DEP se basa en una carta echa por el EPA los cuales indican que el Ironbound llena los requisitos "la región esta presentamente usando metodos para demostra la injusticia ambiental."

"Es una victoria para nosotros que esta planta no sea construida en nuestra comunidad, la cual siempre usan para descargar sus desperdicios," sijo Tiwana Steward-Griffin del ICATW.

La negación del permiso es solo valida por un año. Wheelabrator puede reaplicar.

Grant Conselyea, un residente del Ironbound quien vive cerca de donde seria construida la planta, dijo, "Parte de la pelea ya termino, pero no toda. Tenemos que continuar alertos. Tenemos que cuidarnos uno al otro, porque nadie no nos estan cuidando."

Riverbank Park

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Municipal. Si estos no quieren que el parque se incluye en el registro de sitios historicos, deberan de demostrar que no cumple estos criterios. De obtener un estátus de sítio historico, el parque estaría protejido por las leyes de protección al patrimonio nacional. La eliminación total de tal sítio y la construcción de grandes estructuras en su lugar sería, por lo tanto, prohibido.

"Manzanas Verdes"

El gobierno federal, a través del Servicio Nacional de Parques, y el estatal, a través del programa "Manzanas Verdes" (Green Acres) ya dieron fondos utilizados para mejoras del parque. Como ya se utilizaron estos fondos publicos, el acuerdo de éstas instancias sería necesaria para poder remplazar el parque. Hasta el momento, ni el uno ni el otro han aprobado el proyecto de los estadios.

Para más información llame al 465-0603.

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